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We then regard the Cænozoic and Psychozoic as two consecutive the Quaternary as the critical, revolutionary, or transitional period between. But since the record of this last critical period is not lost, and we must place it somewhere, it seems best to place it with the Cænozoic era and the mammalian age, and to commence the Psychozoic era and age of man with the completed supremacy of man, that is, with the Present epoch.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, *March 15, 1877.*

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### RECENT LITERATURE.

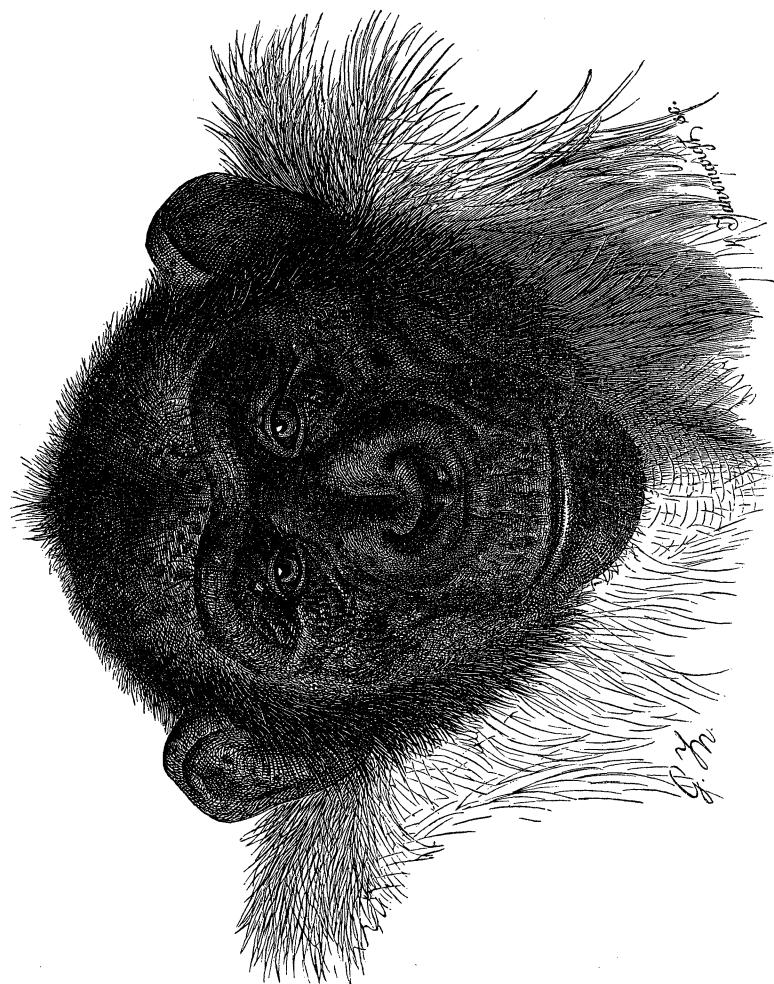
BREHM'S ANIMAL LIFE.<sup>1</sup> — A second edition of Brehm's well-known German work on the animal kingdom is now in course of publication, to be issued in about a hundred parts, published weekly or fortnightly, forming a series of volumes of unusual attractiveness and interest. The author tells us that it is really a new work under an old title, having been rewritten and enlarged. While the first volume of the first series treats of the mammals from the apes down to the family of dogs, succeeding volumes will treat of the other mammals and of the reptiles and fishes. These will be written by Dr. A. E. Brehm, the well-known naturalist, while those on the articulated animals will be written by Prof. E. L. Taschenberg, of Halle, and the mollusks will be treated of by Prof. Oscar Schmidt, of Strasburg. What provision is to be made for the other invertebrate animals is not yet announced.

The work is of a general nature, not designed for the special zoölogical student or for children, but for those who wish to gain a knowledge of the principal forms of animal life, their habits and distribution. There are no troublesome, perplexing anatomical or embryological details, save wood-cuts of skeletons, in word or picture, no foot-notes, and the style is easy, sprightly, and often colloquial. It is apparently a popular work in the best sense of the word, and should be well patronized in this country, if for no other reason than for the wealth of wood-cuts, both full-page and textual, which alone, to those ignorant of German, would make it of lasting value. The illustrations are nearly all new to us, and in very many, we suppose most, cases are drawn from life by such artists as R. Kretschmer, G. Mutzel, and E. Schmidt, with the greatest apparent fidelity.

The plan of the work is excellent. After an introductory chapter on life in its totality, the apes are described, — man, the type of the first sub-order of Primates, being referred to only incidentally in comparison with

<sup>1</sup> *Brehm's Thierleben.* Allgemeine Kund, des Thierreichs. Grosse Ausgabe. Zweite umgearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. Erste Abtheilung, Säugethiere. Erster Band. Leipzig Verlag des bibliographischen Institute. 1876. 8vo, pp. 706. New York: B. Westermann & Co. 40 cents a part; 12 parts to a volume.

the apes, which represent the second suborder of Primates. Then follows a general "popular" account of the forms of apes, their geographical distribution, dwelling-places, food, motions, social life, language, reproduction, education, rearing of young, diseases, life in confinement, and of the apes figured on the Egyptian temples; then succeeds a more special account of the gorilla, the chimpanzee, and the tschego (*Anthropopi-*



(Fig. 59.) TSCHEGO APE.

*thecus tschego*), and orang, with the lower forms. In this comprehensive and, we may readily believe from the high reputation of the author, thorough manner, the different groups of animals are treated. A sample of the elaborate nature of the wood-cuts is afforded in the two accompanying views of the head of a five-year old tschego in the Dresden Zoological Garden, which was brought from the Loango coast.

As an indication of the abundance of illustrations in the first volume it may be stated that there are nineteen full-page pictures of animals, grouped from studies after nature; fifty-two finished cuts in the text of apes and monkeys; twelve of bats; twenty-eight of cats; and thirty-eight of dogs. A volume on insects has appeared, and the second volume on mammals is now in course of publication.



UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF FISH AND FISHERIES.<sup>1</sup>— From a comparatively small beginning the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries has, by its practical results in pisciculture, assumed so much importance that Congress last spring appropriated fifty thousand dollars for the work of 1877. It is understood that this appropriation is to be devoted solely to the raising of fish, and not for any purely scientific investigations, although by the excellent economical management of Professor Baird and his assistants in past years a great deal has been

<sup>1</sup> *United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries.* Part III. Report of the Commissioner for 1873-74 and 1874-75. Washington. 1876. 8vo, pp. 777.